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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Appln. of: ABBOTT, *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/996,183
Filed: November 28, 2001
For: Resistive Heaters and Uses Thereof
Docket: THERMO.1003

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed thereon. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,616,263, 5,039,840, and 3,922,386 were cited in the International Search Report of the corresponding PCT patent application. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(a). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(a) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits an official communication by a international officer in which the

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references were cited in a international patent application on the same subject matter.

However, no independent analysis of the reference, the accuracy of the statement of the international officer, or the claims of the international application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made.

It is believed there are no fees involved with this information disclosure statement.

However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit

Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. Nieves
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,173

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 24, 2003 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristine Stevens

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